

The Turbans - ‘The Turbans’

Album out now on [Six Degrees Records](#)



Short Bio

International legends The Turbans bind together musics from ‘manywhere’ with their interstellar live show which ignites the crowd. Sonically huge and visually arresting, they are a powerhouse of talent, bringing their vibrant and unique sound to audiences who can do nothing more than smile, dance and shout for joy.

Growing from the intertwining paths of many talented musicians travelling the world, this extraordinary project has grown in a few years from very humble beginnings, into a progressive name on the London music scene. Its members have gathered from countries such as Turkey, Bulgaria, Israel, Iran, Greece and England to perform in concerts and festivals around the UK, North America, Middle-East, Hong Kong, India and Europe.

Their aim is to bring music to the people, young and old alike, mixing vibrant spontaneity and authenticity with multi-genre instrumental and vocal excellence.

[Français](#) - [Español](#) - [Deutch](#)

UK Media Quotes

“The Turbans are a stomping ensemble that sound like Eastern Europe swinging the Middle East around by the arm in the middle of a raucous party.”

Songlines (from the tour preview)

This is an album that surprises, impresses and leaves you feeling slightly giddy - like a kosh over the head, but in a good way ...

Their music has a Balkan energy and Levantine fire.”

****** Songlines (Top of the World album)**

“The Turbans’ whirlwind album is similar to taking a trip around the world in 80 days.”

7.5/10 Rhythm Passport

“The Turbans are a British-based fusion band whose “music from anywhere” switches from the Balkans to the Middle East and from flamenco to North Africa. The best track on their self-titled debut is a cheerful love song to Hackney.”

The Guardian

“Above all, it is the feeling of unity that rises above everything ... A confident debut and more importantly incredibly enjoyable.”

7.5/10 Louder Than War

“The band’s very existence presents both a political challenge and statement of defiance in this most fractious of climates. Crucially, it also provides a glorious affirmation of music’s potential ability to bridge the great divides of our time.”

******RNR magazine**

“The Turbans’ music is energetic, catchy and enormous fun.”

****** London Evening Standard**

“A largely upbeat celebration of borderless solidarity ... It would take an age to document each of this globe-stretching group’s credentials and heritage, let alone mention all the additional guests that make this, The Turbans, debut album so richly amorphous, traversing as it does so many cultural and national references ... A celebration of universal collaboration ... You’d be hard-pressed to find a more international sound right now.”

Monolith Cocktail

“Infectious grooves from the Balkan regions with individual band members roots in no less than seven countries, inevitably creating a rich mixture of sounds and styles, but firmly rooted in tradition, and all recorded in a Northumberland farmhouse..”

****** Northern Sky**

“A debut that’s politically conscious in all the right places.”

New Internationalist

“A band like The Turbans kicks the door wide open, letting the sunlight stream in, welcoming the world with open arms ... [They] make a joyful noise that draws from all the different cultures represented by the band members ... The Turbans create a highly danceable stew of different musical styles from all over the world- “anywhere” as the band call it - played with fire and conviction, and first-rate musicianship.”

FRUK/ Folk Radio

The Turbans

music from anywhere



Live Show Reviews

"The Turbans weave a celebratory patchwork of global community that transcends borders and separation in this great gig ... An electrifying band."

****** [Morning Star \(The Turbans at Islington Assembly Hall\)](#)**

"A musical blowout, as well as being well-co-ordinated chaos ... A flavourful musical goulash seasoned with notes inspired by India, Iran, Northern Africa and Andalusia, enjoying special zests typical of the Balkan and Turkish traditions – a rich and corroborative soup fully manifesting itself in the band's debut album, which inevitably played the lion's share of the set list."

[Rhythm Passport \(The Turbans at Islington Assembly Hall\)](#)



Radio Quotes

"Really ebullient and infectious stuff ... I saw them at the Deaf Institute in Manchester and they are not to be missed. I'm hoping they turn up on some festival bills this summer because they are really a force of nature. Go see them if you get a chance."

Mark Radcliffe, BBC Radio 2 (also BBC Radio 6 Music)



The Album

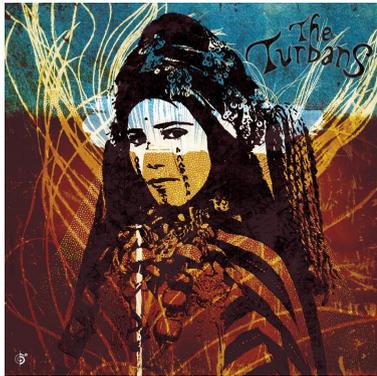
International legends The Turbans bind together musics from ‘anywhere’ with their interstellar live show which ignites the crowd. Sonically huge and visually arresting, they are a powerhouse of talent, bringing their vibrant and unique sound to audiences who can do nothing more than smile, dance and shout for joy.

“The Turbans” is the culmination of 7 years of The Turbans’ dedicated touring, improvisation, collaboration and performance. Taking the listener on a journey through the vibrant rhythms, scales, melodies and languages of their far-reaching musical path.

In Spring 2016, thirteen musicians gathered from ten different countries with one aim: The Turbans’ debut album. The setting was Burnlaw, a 500 year-old farmhouse in rural Northumberland, inhabited by a thriving community who share The Turbans’ vision of unity and diversity. There they wrote and developed 30 songs which formed the basis of this album, weaving together their many threads of sound.

Recorded live at Henwood Studios with two producers, **Tom Excell** (Nubiyah Twist) and **Thibault Remy** (Awale), mixed by Grammy-Award winner **Jerry Boys** (Buena Vista Social Club) and mastered by **Tom Leader** (World Circuit), it has been produced to the highest sonic standards.

[Link to Album in all formats](#)



Touring History

UK

Glastonbury Festival
Wilderness Festival (Main Stage)
Bestival
Boomtown
Shambala Festival
The Great Escape Festival
Electric Brixton
Colston Hall
Islington Assembly Hall

Europe

WOMEX 18 - Official Selection, **Gran Canaria**
Sofia International Film Festival, **Bulgaria**
Alice (Formerly Global), Copenhagen, **Denmark**
FZW, Dortmund, **Germany**
Kater Blau, Berlin, **Germany**
Fusion Festival, **Germany**
Earth Garden Festival, **Malta**
Podium Grounds, Rotterdam, **Netherlands**
Paaspop, **Netherlands**

International

NLFB, **Canada**
Hillside Festival, **Canada**
Clockenflap, **Hong Kong**
Goat Music Festival, Goa, **India**
High Spirits, Pune, **India**
Rothchild 12, Tel Aviv, **Israel**
Nocturno, Jerusalem, **Israel**
ISKV, Istanbul, **Turkey**
Drom, New York, **USA**



Videos

[Promo - Jazz Cafe](#)



[Promo - Album Launch](#)



[Riders - Debut Single - Official Video](#)



Press Bio

In a politically divided time it's hard to imagine a band comprised of members from across Europe and the Levant as not being inherently progressive. **The Turbans**, whose self-titled debut album was released on 6 April (**Six Degrees Records**), features musicians with roots in Turkey, Bulgaria, Israel, Iran, Greece, Spain, and England. Yet transmitting a political message was not their initial impulse. It was simply music.

And friendship, as it turns out. **Oshan Mahony**, the “seventh best guitar player in the band” he says with a laugh 😊 the core group is seven members — met violinist **Darius Luke Thompson** in Kathmandu. The two half-Iranian, half-British nomads immediately hit it off. They began busking throughout India, picking up musicians along their Journey.

Seven years later The Turbans delivers to global audiences the same high-energy blend of Balkan, klezmer, Gypsy, and sundry other styles they've been bringing to venues around the world for years — India, Hong Kong, the Middle East, and all throughout Europe and North America. While the band has pulled from numerous folk traditions for live shows, recording required a new mindset.

“For this album we all went together to the farmhouse where I grew up in Northumberland,” says Mahony, whose parents bought a previously abandoned five-hundred-year-old property on the border of Scotland and England and turned it into a community arts centre. “We all contributed about thirty songs. Some were traditional sounding, others were poppy. When you have a classical violinist playing an Indian raga you create something really weird and new.”

The breadth of genres on these eleven songs is astounding, which is why Kurdish percussionist **Cabbar Baba** called The Turbans “**music from anywhere.**” This coinage has also come to serve as the band's reply to where they're from.

So it was fitting that **Jerry Boys** would mix this energising and border-less album. “He likes a raw sound with real energy,” Mahony says, following it up by stating that the master mixer is already prodding the band to begin work on their next album. Boys kicked off his career at Abbey Road Studios; in his early days he worked on records by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and Pink Floyd. The five-time Grammy winner then went global, working with Buena Vista Social Club, Ali Farka Toure, Shakira, Toumani Diabate, and Kronos Quartet. Fellow World Circuit veteran **Tom Leader** mastered The Turbans.

The Turbans is rounded out by vocalist and guitarist **Miroslav Morski**, a former Bulgarian pop star who previously fronted the band, Django Ze, and has been described as a “musical tornado” with a broad range of musical styles; Greek folk music expert, vocalist **Pavlos Mavromatakis**; cajon player and flamenco guitarist **Pablo Dominguez**, whose father, Chano, is a well-known flamenco pianist; Israeli guitarist **Moshe Zehavi**, whose parents are from Turkey and Tunisia; and oud player **Maxim Shchedrovitzki**, a native of Belarus.

Beyond the core group the band is always playing with other musicians. On their debut this includes the “Gnawa Master of London,” guembri player **Simo Lagnawi**, as well as the London Bulgarian Choir. Lagnawi contributes guembri, a Moroccan bass lute, and vocals on the Gnawa track, “**Hamouda**,” which leads into a North African exploration, “Chubby.” The latter song is based on the Moroccan pop style, Chaabi. It's a brilliant segue, from ritual trance music into an uplifting, danceable fusion of guitars, percussion, oud, and woodwind.

“**Sinko Moy**,” which means “my son” in Bulgarian, was written by Morski, who had to leave his family in Bulgaria when moving to London due to visa problems. The time away from his family inspired this song, which is also the name of a forthcoming documentary on Morski's life, coming out later this year. Morski also honours his wife on “**Samia**,” a happier track about the joys of married life. In fact, most of the album reflects the band's upbeat spirit. “**Riders**” is about nomadic life — the band spends half the year in Goa, the other half in the UK — as well as “being taken away by music.” “**Aman**” is a tribute to flamenco that incites “exclamations of happiness,” featuring lyrics in Greek and Spanish. The upbeat “**Hackney**” honours London's most diverse borough, which every band member has lived in and serves as an important musical hub in the UK.

Mahony, the glue holding the band together, is in constant awe over the intensity of his bandmates. “Every single person in this band has such a strong fire inside of them,” he says. “I know so many good musicians in this city, and even around the world, who play perfectly, but when they play they don't release the passion of the music. Everyone in this band has so much Fire.”

The band is intent on letting their personalities and skill carry their message forward. While there are many possible meanings behind the band's name, Mahony states they would only be applied in hindsight. He can't even remember why Darius Thompson coined the term, though he suspects it might have to do with the fact that Mahony rode around India wearing a giant turban on his bicycle.

Still, that doesn't imply a bigger message isn't getting through. The Turbans is a truly global album with no pretensions of being anything other than the collaboration of good friends. They hop boundaries through instruments and melodies, no singular style dominating. Nothing is forced on the entire album.

You feel the intimacy and energy of their live show with every note. “We try to be politically neutral because we have people from all these different countries. The only message we try to put across is that we believe in one world, one people. We want to play for everybody. We want to show that it's okay to be who you are. We believe in a world without borders”, and it seems to be ringing true with people.

[Francais](#) - [Espanol](#) - [Deutsch](#)

The Turbans

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